

**Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority  
Telephone Conference  
July 26, 2010 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Meeting Notes**

**Board Members Participating:** Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner; Edna Fund, City of Centralia; J Vander Stoep, Town of Pe Ell; Ken Estes, City of Montesano; Ron Averill, Lewis County Commissioner; Terry Willis, Grays Harbor Commissioner; Lionell Pinn, City of Napavine; Merlin MacReynold, City of Chehalis; Frank Gordon, City of Aberdeen

Vice Chair Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and possibly reach a conclusion on the Bucoda levee project. She asked Mr. Boettcher to describe the project.

Mr. Boettcher stated the project is the Bucoda Levee Project Phase I. The total project is to raise an existing levee by about three feet and to extend the levee across an access road to encircle the town's well head that provides drinking water. The request is to fund Phase I design at \$42,000 which is projected to be completed by October, 2012. The approval form that was emailed includes three new line items that were proposed after meeting with OFM and the Tribe. These new items are: 1) Flood Hazard Reduction Benefits; 2) Adverse Impacts and Effects; 3) Project Feasibility.

1) Flood Hazard Reduction Benefits: Purpose is to encircle the well head to protect the town's water source.

2) Adverse Impacts and Effects: Larry Karpack did an analysis on the levee. There will be about 300 cubic yards of material put on top; he anticipates any rise to be no more than 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a foot.

3) Project Feasibility: There appears to be no significant issues to keep this project from going forward.

There will be more jobs for Phase II which will be construction. If the design is done by October the construction work would be completed by July 2013.

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked if these new additions on the form would be on every project description. Mr. Boettcher stated they would.

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked for a history of the problems with this facility. Mr. Swartout stated the original design concept of the levee was to push the water flow away from the well head but not protect it from flooding which would create more of a ponding effect rather than a flow. Flows create different types of damage. Mr. Karpack did a good job with the LiDAR. He thought that given the elevation of the road to the site it would be simple to tie in the wall to the existing levee with a minimal amount of dirt that would be equal to the 300 cubic yards with the added benefits of not allowing the area to flood. This was based on the 2009 flood elevation.

Vice Chair Valenzuela stated the purpose of today's meeting was to determine if the Flood Authority could provide direction to move forward on this project.

Mr. MacReynold stated he had sent out an email earlier this morning with Chehalis' concerns on this project. Those concerns were: the project does not meet the legislative intent which is jobs and being

shovel ready, and design work does not fit into the criteria. He found it difficult to understand how to do modeling or talk about impacts when there is no design. After a discussion with others he now believes that the legislative intent is being met and that there are quite a few projects that will need to be designed that they will greatly benefit this area and downstream. Therefore, although he has concerns, he would vote thumb sideways.

Mr. Boettcher verified that OFM agrees that the funding of design work makes sense.

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked if there were any thumbs down. There were none and the proposal would be moved to the Chehalis Tribe for its consideration. She asked if there were other issues to discuss.

Mr. Estes stated there is a serious problem at the ox bow at Mary's River Lumber. It was considered an emergency in 2010 but there was no funding at that time. This would be a project that would meet the criteria for shovel ready except that the plans are two years old now and would need to be updated. He stressed the urgency to provide money up to \$100,000 to look again at this study.

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked if Mr. Estes could work with Mr. Boettcher to put this onto a form. Mr. Boettcher stated he could do that and he needs to determine which category it would fit.

Commissioner Willis stated the Wishkah project is being worked on and it has attracted the attention of Senator Hargrove. Commissioner Willis will be meeting with him and Mr. Kersh tonight to try to get this project ready to come before the Flood Authority for consideration.

The Satsop project is another one that has old data available and Commissioner Willis would like to bring that forward. One concern was with tribal conversations. She spoke with the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) about projects that may come before the Flood Authority. She would like to include the QIN so their issues can be considered and they know what is being proposed.

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked Mr. Kramer if he thought this would complicate the efforts of the Governor's office with the government to government consultations. Mr. Kramer thought that contact with the Tribe's staff was a positive thing to do.

The email concerning the airport levee was brought up. After discussion, Mr. Kramer summarized the discussion by saying that if the project does not change then the Flood Authority approval does not need to be revisited. Information on Phase II provided by Mr. MacReynold will be provided to the Executive Committee, OFM and the Tribe. Vice Chair Valenzuela stated that would determine whether or not another telephone conference will be necessary next week.

Mr. MacReynold stated the information would be put together as soon as possible but it wasn't clear if it would be ready by August 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is something that needs to be passed on unless something changes significantly.

Mr. Kramer stated the only thing that could change is if the form that was approved by the Flood Authority said this was for Phase I. There is no approval for Phase II. If OFM wants approval of Phase II then it will have to go back.

Commissioner Willis stated there are other projects that are not that far along but we need approval from the Flood Authority to ask for design funding to help develop what the projects might look like.

What information does the Flood Authority need to put the Satsop and Wishkah projects on the agenda to move them to another level?

Mr. Kramer stated there are a number of projects that need design that add up to \$500,000 and there is no guidance on what design means. If the Airport Phase I project and the Bucoda levee project get approved for construction then there will only be \$390,000 left in the levee pot. We have to do some work to sort out what design means and whether all projects are using similar definitions and how to parse out that money. Mary's River is not a levee and it does not have a clear category. Another week is needed to sort this out to offer some options.

Mr. Boettcher stated he would work with Grays Harbor County regarding Mary's River and other remaining projects to see if the remaining dollars can be organized. He stated he would have information by the end of day on August 7 for discussion and possible decision on August 9 (via telephone).

Vice Chair Valenzuela asked Ms. Anderson to send out an email stating there would not be another phone meeting until August 9.

Mr. Vanell thanked the Flood Authority for approving the levee design and he confirmed the invitation to have the next regular meeting in Bucoda. He stated it is possible to walk to the levee site if the Authority wants him to set up a tour.

The meeting adjourned at 11:56.